

State Dept. review completed

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Z 162338Z DEC 73 ZYH

FM AMMAN

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T/SENSITIVE

25X1

FROM AMMAN 0023

25X1

TO : WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM.

DECEMBER 15, 1973

HAKTO 47

FOR SCOWCROFT FROM THE SECRETARY

PLEASE CALL IN DOBRYNIN AND TELL HIM THE FOLLOWING:

AFTER SIX AND A HALF HOUR TALK WITH ASAD, HE REMAINS HESITANT ABOUT GOING TO GENEVA CONFERENCE UNLESS HE HAS CLEAR ADVANCE INDICATION OF LINE OF DISENGAGEMENT AND DEMARCATION ON SYRIAN FRONT. HE SAID HE HAD REPEATEDLY TOLD THIS TO THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR. DOBRYNIN WILL RECOGNIZE THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS NEVER GIVEN TO US AND WE HAVE HAD THE IMPRESSION FROM THE SOVIETS THAT THE SYRIANS WERE PREPARED TO GO TO THE CONFERENCE. USSR WILL AGREE THAT SUCH AGREEMENT BEFORE CONFERENCE CONVENES IS POSSIBLE. THERE HAVE NEVER BEEN TECHNICAL TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SYRIA AND IT IS OBVIOUSLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH BETWEEN THEM WHAT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AS A RESULT OF TALKS LASTING A NUMBER OF WEEKS.

I AM CONFIDENT USSR WILL RECOGNIZE IMPLICATIONS IF SYRIA REFUSES TO ATTEND. WE URGE SOVIETS NOW TO OBTAIN SYRIAN AGREEMENT TO ATTEND CONFERENCE; THEY HAVE OUR ASSURANCES THAT WE WILL MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO ACHIEVE DISENGAGEMENT ON THE SYRIAN FRONT.

WITH RESPECT TO LETTER TO SECRETARY GENERAL AND DELAY OF CONFERENCE TO DECEMBER 21, ASAD SAID HE HAS NO OBJECTION TO POSTPONEMENT AND WAS BASICALLY PREPARED TO ACCEPT WHATEVER IS ACCEPTABLE TO EGYPT INsofar AS LETTER IS CONCERNED. I DISCUSSED WITH HIM DIFFICULTIES ISRAELIS HAVE WITH LANGUAGE RE PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AND HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE BEST THING TO DO IS TO MODIFY PRESENT FORMULATION SO THAT IT WILL REFER TO "OTHER PARTICIPANTS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AREA" RATHER THAN "PARTICIPATION OF THE PALESTINIANS AND LEBANON." SINCE ASAD SAID HE WOULD ACCEPT WHATEVER EGYPT AGREES TO, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE NO DIFFICULTY WITH HIM ON THIS POINT.

YOU SHOULD ALSO TELL DOBRYNIN WE ARE INSTRUCTING EILTS TO TAKE UP THIS PROPOSED CHANGE IN LETTER WITH EGYPTIANS. AS SOON AS WE HAVE EGYPTIAN APPROVAL, WE URGE THAT SOVIETS DELIVER IT TO

***** *WHSR COMMENT*****

SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, SEC FLE

ON-FILE NSC
RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

RECALLED

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SYRIANS AND OBTAIN THEIR ACCEPTANCE.

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PAGE 02

DE 02

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